

South Dakota Dental Association

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President, SDDA

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Trustee and Chair, SDDA Committee
on Dental Health

South Dakota Dental Association

Access for Medicaid Patients is a Concern for the SDDA

- ▶ Supported retaining the Adult Dental Medicaid Program during the 2009 Legislative Session.
- ▶ Leader of the South Dakota Oral Health Coalition.
- ▶ Coalition has initiated several projects and programs to improve access to dental care for underserved patients including Medicaid patients.

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Access to Dental Care Initiatives

Delta Dental – dental Medicaid administrator
Community Health Centers (5)
Dentist Recruitment Project
Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program
Tuition Reimbursement for Dentists
Delta Loan Repayment Program
Mobile Dental Program
Prevention / Education Project
Sunshyne Smiles Program
Partners for Prevention Program
Donated Dental Services Program
Medicaid fee re-basing

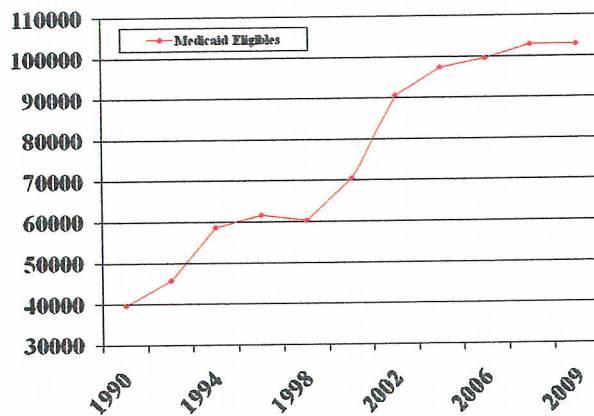
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Members of the South Dakota Oral Health Coalition

- SD Dental Association
- Delta Dental of South Dakota
- Community Health Centers of the Dakotas
- S D Department of Health
- SD Department of Social Services
- S D Dental Hygienists Association
- S D Dental Assistants Association
- S D Department of Education – Head Start
- Voices for Children
- Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board
- USD Dental Hygiene Department
- LATI Dental Assisting Program
- Indian Health Service
- SD Head Start Program
- SD Assoc of Community Based Services

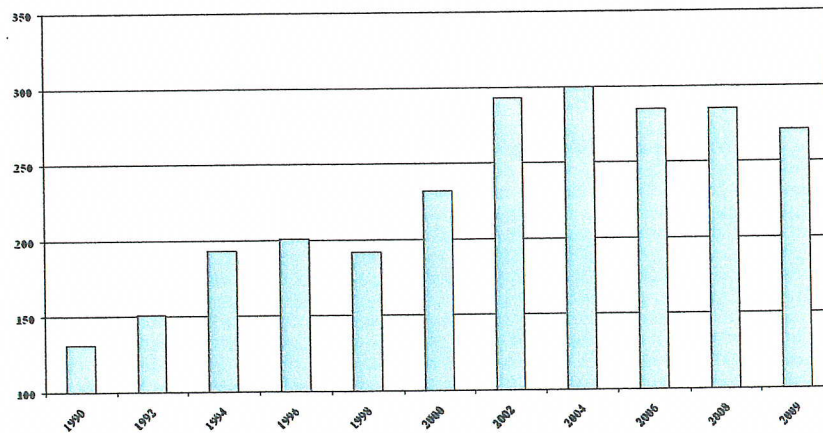
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Increase in Medicaid Eligibles



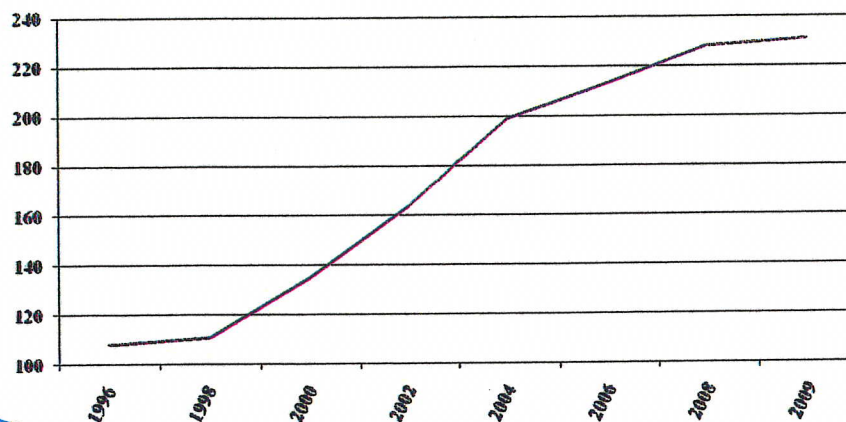
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Medicaid Eligibles per Practicing Dentist in SD by year 1990 - 2009



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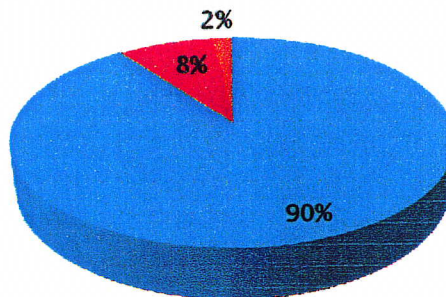
Medicaid Claims Per Practicing Dentist in SD



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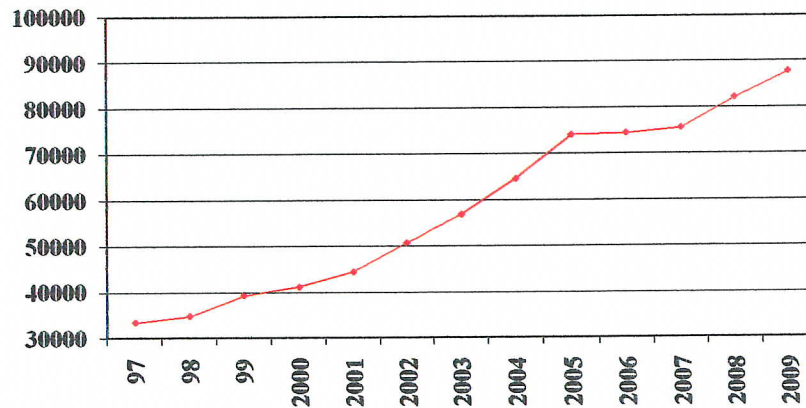
Dentists in private practice treat the vast majority of Medicaid eligible patients

■ Private Practice ■ Community Health Centers
■ Mobile Dental Program



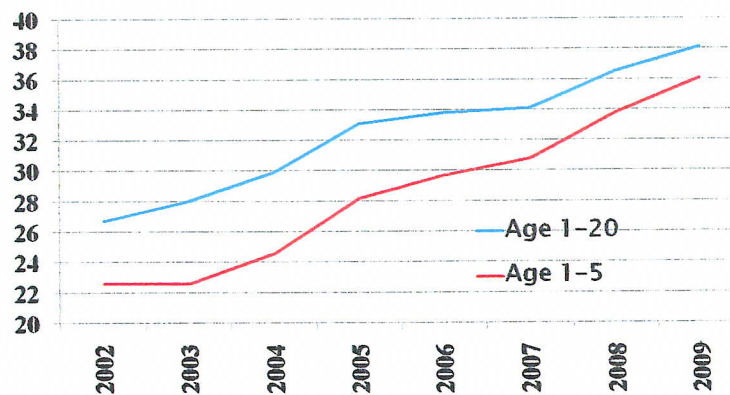
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Medicaid /SCHIP Claims Paid by State Fiscal Year



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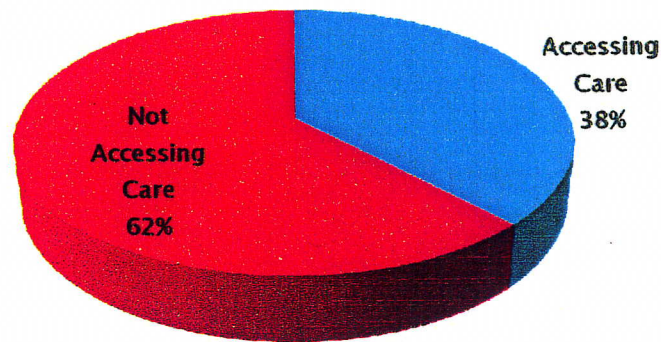
Percent of Children on Medicaid Accessing a Dentist



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Access to dental care needs to improve.

Medicaid Eligible Children



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Economic Consequences of Untreated Dental Disease

- ▶ 51 million hours of school are missed in the U.S. each year due to dental disease.
- ▶ Employed adults in the U.S. lose 164 million hours of work annually due to oral health problems and dental visits.
- ▶ Untreated dental disease is more costly. Dental infections can progress to emergency department visits and hospital admissions at considerably greater expense than early in office treatment.

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Medical Consequences of Untreated Dental Disease

- ▶ Untreated dental disease can lead to infections and life-threatening conditions.
- ▶ Oral conditions affect the rest of the body and can be associated with diabetes, heart conditions, stroke, and bacterial pneumonia.
- ▶ Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among American children causing unnecessary pain, avoidable facial disfigurement and severe infections.

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Social Consequences of Untreated Dental Disease

- ▶ Children with untreated dental disease often have difficulty eating, speaking, and sleeping and may be ashamed of their appearance.
- ▶ Dental pain is very distracting and may interfere with a child's ability to learn and participate in school.
- ▶ Visible dental disease makes people less employable and can make many reluctant to seek employment because they are ashamed of how they look or sound when they try to speak.

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Prevention is the Key

- ▶ Preventive dental care is inexpensive compared to restorative dental care.
- ▶ Dental health is connected to overall health.
- ▶ Access to dental care through regular dental visits can help prevent expensive dental and medical health issues.
- ▶ Access to dental care improves when Medicaid reimbursement rates are greater than dental office overhead.

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